

PEKIN PARK DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF  
THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 18, 2023  
Mineral Springs Park Robert N. Blackwell Administration Building  
1701 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to Order:

President Ranney called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

The following commissioners were present: Kyle Cain, Mike Dralle, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, Steve Sours and Kristen Walraven. Also, in attendance were; Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Lane Alster, Park District Attorney; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf (arrived 6:23 p.m.), Chip Hill, Business Manager/Asst Board Secretary; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing and Communications; Steve Fitzanko, Chief of Park Police; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; and Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator. Absent was: Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation,

3. Additions to and/or Deletions from the Agenda, if any: None

4. Comments from the public: None

5. Consent Agenda and Approval of the same:

A. Approval of the April Treasurer's Report.

B. Approval of the Bills and Payroll for 5/2/23 thru 5/15/23 in the amount of \$128,747.65

C. Approval of bills to be paid 5/19/23 in the amount of \$122,117.33

Move to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kyle Cain

All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried

6. Motion to pass the items of business listed in the Consent Agenda:

Move to pass the business items in the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote

Motion: Gary Gillis 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kristen Walraven

All ayes by a roll call vote – motion carried.

7. IRVSRA Representative Report: No report
8. TCVMFA Representative Report:

Commissioner McMillan stated she was reporting on both March 21, 2023 and May 16, 2023 meetings and reported the following:

March 21

- Voted in and seated new member Todd Kilgus
- Spoke about fundraising efforts or the lack there of. They think covid is still playing a part. She noted the only significant item donated at this time is a painting donated by her.
- They discussed past building projects and how they turned out. Scott Clausen responded with positive results.
- Cameron Bettin stated we had a project to propose to the Board and Shawn Powers gave a presentation regarding a lighting upgrade for the ice rink area. The Fair Board and Park District will share the cost of \$44,921.62. The lighting upgrade is to take place in May.
- Fair dates are July 31 through August 2, 2023
- Wayne Deppert was also inducted into the 4H Hall of Fame and received a medal.

May 16

- Reviewed the Treasurer's Report
- Discussed fundraising and sponsorships. They are trying to come up with the new revenue ideas
- Cameron Bettin came back to board with a reduced cost for lighting at the ice rink and asked for \$5,230 for another project. Keith Knox had proposed for HVAC of the passageway between Parkside Fitness and the Veterans Memorial Arena. Final outcome was to wait on the HVAC.
- Next meeting is July 18 and there will be a walk-through of the fairgrounds and facilities before the annual fair.

9. Pekin Park Foundation Representative Report:

Commissioner Gillis reported the following:

On May 15th the board of the Pekin Park Foundation held its Annual Meeting whereby it elected officers for the coming year. The current officers were re-elected:

Gary Gillis-President  
Scott Kriegsman- Vice President  
Dennis Green- Secretary  
Chip Hill-Treasurer

In the Financial Report Chip Hill shared that the “Funky Monkey” Golf Tournament raised \$3360 for the Steve Funk Junior Golf Fund resulting in a fund balance to support Junior Golf exceeding \$23,000.

Cameron Bettin shared the soon-to-be released brochure promoting fund raising for the Performing Arts Venue. (Copy in Board Packet) The Pekin Park Foundation is prominently displayed and its role solely as the depository for funds explained. Cameron also announced that Advanced Medical Transport has promised a \$50,000 matching donation.

Gary Gillis shared with the board that he had spoken with Mike Unes-Director of Community Relations at Carle Health-delineating the separate fund-raising efforts for the Performance Venue and the Sunken Garden Fountain. He wanted Mike to know that the Foundation’s request for financial assistance from the hospital still stands but we understand the timing importance of the Performance Venue funding needs relative to the Foundation’s. It basically was a call to “keep us on the radar” and consider our request “always open and active”.

Gary again shared his thoughts of the Foundation- and the Park- taking an active role in next year’s Pekin Bicentennial. In the past, the Foundation has discussed having an increased sponsorship role in high-credibility activities in the community. Sponsoring a Pavilion Porch Party or a food cart are possibilities for some event on a weekend in the summer of 2024. We are open to ideas or suggestions.

Gary shared that he has spoken with Supt Danielle Owens of District 303 about a possible interest by the PCHS Trades area in renovation of the interior of our Train Depot. If such interest is shown, they would be referred to Scott Clausen to begin a discussion of the work involved. The Foundation board recommended contacting the West Central Building Council trades to see if there is a similar interest.

The information and application for the Terri Gambetti Scholarship Fund Recreation Program Financial Assistance Application was discussed. The first requests totaling \$267.30 were paid by the Foundation. This is the first year of this revised program and the board looks forward to seeing what the end result is. A lengthy discussion was conducted regarding the possible confusion the title of the program may create. That may be re-evaluated at the end of this programming cycle. We are open to suggestions on how to best promote and market.

10. Executive Director’s Report: (ED)

The ED reported the following:

- Public Open House for the Bike Trail at Miller Center 5-7 p.m.

- Meeting regarding Court St. project
- Enterprise meeting
- Dragon slide
- Porch Party licensing

11. Staff Reports:

Scott Clausen reported on bridge repair at McNaughton Park and the Pavilion paint job.

12. Commissioner Comments:

Gary  
Kristen  
Mike

13. Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion regarding Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act –

Possible candidate is Jim Ruth

14. New Business:

1. Discussion regarding the IDNR Illinois Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program (PARC) –

McNaughton/Soldwedel probably best be.

17. Adjourn:

Move to adjourn this meeting.

Motion: Gary Gillis 2nd: Kyle Cain

All ayes by a voice call vote – motion carried

Time: 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dori K. Smith, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners  
Pekin Park District